



DRAYCOTE WATER SAILING CLUB

SOLO FLEET NEWSLETTER WINTER 2010



The clocks have gone back, the End of Season Championships has been run, the Summer Series are over and the Winter Series has begun. Time for a Fleet Newsletter, although a short one this time due to other pressures.

A special welcome to Jason Hughes who has had his new Solo for a month or two. Jason has stacked up some impressive results so far and stormed passed me up wind at the End of Season Championships. Certainly one to watch!

Also a warm welcome to Chris Furner who has bought Dennis Slack's Solo. It is sad to see Dennis leave the fleet, but Chris is a worthy replacement. Gary Molton was also seen at the Club during the End of Season planning a return to the Solo fleet!

End of Season Championships

Thank you so much to everyone who helped wash boats, park cars and register entries. I think it went as well as could be expected for the situation we were faced with.

Congratulations to Tim Davison for coming 7th overall, first Grand Master and first Club boat! Tim has made quite an impact in his first season in a Solo and at Draycote (see results below) – I'm beginning to regret encouraging him to join us!!!

The report of this event for Yachts & Yachting reads as follows:

Before hibernation, many Solo sailors make the annual temporary migration to Draycote Water Sailing Club for the End of Season Championships. This year 57 made the trip to find the usual Draycote obstacles (boat washing and lack of parking near the rigging area) compounded by Severn Trent's building works and the tide being out.

The home fleet endeavoured to minimise the inconvenience, with the 48 visiting boats all washed in 90 minutes (averaging 1 boat every 2 minutes!). Unfortunately nothing could be done about the mud revealed by the unprecedented low water, which rivalled Brightlingsea at a similar state of tide.

However, PRO John Rhode set an imaginative trapezoid course, which kept the fleet away from the shallow areas of the lake meaning that the racing was not affected by the water levels. This added an interesting tactical downwind leg, right in front of the clubhouse, which was somewhat sheltered from the full force of the wind, but still saw some hefty gusts and several capsizes.

Traditionally the format for this one day event is a fairly gentle start, with all hell breaking loose in the afternoon. This year was different – the wind arrived with a vengeance shortly after everyone had launched and saw a very windy and gusty first race. After lunch things calmed down somewhat, but there were still some strong gusts and opportunities for the unwary to check there was still enough water in the racing area to turn turtle.

Unfortunately the conditions of the first race saw the fleet somewhat depleted in the afternoon, with a few competitors feeling unable to face a repeat either of the conditions on the water or the slog through the mud to get there.

However, none of this phased Michael Sims, who is hardly one of the fleet's heavyweights, who won the event convincingly with three bullets. In the second two races he was challenged very closely by David Winder who got seconds in those two races and overall. Stuart Hydon took third, with first Veteran, Ian Pinnell, in fourth. Tim Davison was first Grand Master in 7th.

The racing was definitely enhanced by John Rhode's start lines which achieved the unheard of at a Solo Championship event – no recalls, no signs of the black flag – just 3 clean starts! This left more time for racing and less for hanging around.

Next year's event is booked for 27th October, by when the building work will be complete and the tide should have come back in.

Summer Series

With the Summer Series now complete, we can now reveal the full results thanks to our scorer Pete McCrea who keeps everything updated regularly on the website:

	Sunday am		Sunday pm 1		Sunday pm 2		Wednesday evening	
	25 races, 8 counting		24 races, 8 counting		19 races, 6 counting		23 races, 7 counting	
1	Jeremy Atkins	9	Jeremy Atkins	8	Jeremy Atkins	6	Richard Pye	7
2	Tim Davison	12	Nigel Davies	11	Tim Davison	11	Nigel Davies	9
3	Nigel Davies	13	Tim Davison	15	Lance Evans	13	Jeremy Atkins	10
4	Mike Clay	18	Lance Evans	22	Andrew Smith	17	Pete McCrea	10
5	Barry Green	20	Mike Clay	22	Mike Furner	19	Andrew Smith	18
6	Lance Evans	22	Jon Hughes	31	Hamish Brown	19	Mick Clay	19
7	John Coleman	32	John Coleman	35	Mike Partington	23	Barry Green	58
8	Jon Hughes	35	<i>Pete McCrea</i>	36	John Coleman	53	Robin Warren	65
9	<i>Pete McCrea</i>	36	<i>Hamish Brown</i>	40	Nigel Davies	60	Mike Partington	67
10	<i>Mike Furner</i>	50	<i>Mike Partington</i>	41	Dan Fisher	76	Hamish Brown	70
11	<i>Hamish Brown</i>	53	<i>Mike Furner</i>	44	Pete McCrea	79	John Tippett	79
12	<i>Mike Partington</i>	56	<i>Martin Scurrah</i>	52	Richard Pye	80	Mike Furner	88
13	<i>Martin Scurrah</i>	58	Andrew Smith	54	Jason Hughes	82	R Munday	92
14	<i>G Marshall</i>	64	<i>G Marshall</i>	66	R Munday	92	Chris Furner	97
15	Andrew Smith	98	Barry Green	100	Jon Clarke	96		
16	Robin Warren	106	<i>Richard Munday</i>	114	Martin Scurrah	100		
17	<i>R Munday</i>	106	Richard Pye	120	G Marshall	102		
18	Richard Pye	114	<i>Jason Hughes</i>	134	Chris Furner	103		
19	<i>Jason Hughes</i>	132	Robin Warren	144				
20	Jon Clarke	149	<i>Chris Furner</i>	150				
21	<i>John Tippett</i>	170	<i>Dan Fisher</i>	152				
22	<i>Chris Furner</i>	174	Jon Clarke	162				
23	<i>Dennis Slack</i>	177	<i>John Tippett</i>	177				
24			<i>Dennis Slack</i>	185				

For the first 2 series, italics show people who are eligible for the plate series. Pete McCrea wins these, following his plate victory in the Winter series. A clean sweep for Pete in the plate series this year – all we need to do is to get him to win a race again!

Congratulations to all our winners etc. Prizes will be presented as usual at our prize giving dinner in the Spring. (Further details will be supplied when they are available).

Fleet AGM

Before then, there is one specific date in the Solo calendar: our fleet AGM. This will be held on Sunday 4th December after sailing. This is your opportunity to have a say on what the fleet does next year and, of course, to elect the fleet captain.

I must say I was shocked to discover that I had only been fleet captain for 4 years – it feels like much longer than that! If anyone wants to be fleet captain, please let me know and I will happily stand down. If no one volunteers, I will carry on for another year.

Draycote Dash

You may have heard that this handicap event is being postponed because of the current state of the site and water levels. It will now be held on 25th / 26th February.

Thank you so much to those who volunteered to wash boats for this event when it was being held in November. I would be grateful if you could put the new dates in your diaries – we will need to do it then instead. But I will circulate everyone nearer the time.

Membership Fees

Those of you who were at the AGM, or read the preceding papers, will know that was a proposal to restructure the membership / boat parking fees. While the majority seemed to support the idea in principle the proposal was not carried because it was ill thought out and rushed.

The Committee (with the overwhelming support of the AGM) have decided to re-visit the proposals to present new ones to the membership. In order to avoid the debacle at the AGM, they are keen to have a working party, with membership from across the club, to come up with the proposals.

Richard Le Mare has written to all fleet captains with the following message:

For those that attended the AGM you will know that we, the new committee, have been tasked to move forward with the proposed membership pricing restructure.

To allow us to complete this we need to build a representative task force of club members. In this instance we need to have a reflective demographic representation of the club hence asking for a wider participation.

Could I please ask that you cascade to your fleet and provide me with a volunteer to assist in the review?

To complete this work I would not expect it to take more than 3 dedicated evening meetings hopefully only 2 and for us to be able to give a fair representation across our demographic membership. We can set up email groups, specific forums with relevant access and even a conference call if required to ease the travelling and keep communication open.

If you would like to do this, please let me know and I will put you in touch with Richard.

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